

Alfred Jay Flanagan

By his son David

Alfred Jay Flanagan, son of John H. Flanagan and Nannie Bathsheba (Sheba) Smith was born September 11, 1899 in Farmville Township, Pitt County, NC. He married Alice Baldwin in 1930. He and Alice had one son, David Lloyd Flanagan. Alfred went through school including high school in Farmville. He was an accomplished student and was on the staff of the High School newspaper among other things.

He had a full head of black wavy hair. When he was older it was a beautiful silver except for the brief time it was orange. He decided to turn it red and it did not work. He was short, about 5'4", and stocky. He had a good tenor voice and enjoyed singing. It was usual for him to hum as he went about his daily routine. He was a very gentle man, and he did not judge or attempt to influence others. He was calm to the point of being serene and had but one mood B contented. The worst word in his vocabulary was ah-pshaw, which he seldom used. To say he enjoyed hunting is a gross understatement; it was his life. He was happiest when he was within a few miles of his birthplace. His sisters, even those younger, looked after him as the kid brother.

Aside from a shotgun, a Bible, and an unabridged dictionary, possessions were of little importance. There was not a time in his life he could not get everything worth keeping in a small cart. If he wasn't hunting he was reading the Bible with an unabridged dictionary by his side. He was regarded as an expert on the Bible, yet his religion was so private he never spoke of it, even to his son. Still, he did not take himself too seriously.

If you were to cast a typical Irish countryside with all the color attributed to the last century, you would certainly need an Alfred in the cast. But, if your character called for frequent stops by the pub for a pint with an occasional brawl, look elsewhere. Alf did not fit the part.

The setting was not Ireland. The setting was Pitt County, North Carolina, which he enjoyed from 11 September 1899 to 16 May 1978. He was buried with his parents and his father=s parents at his grandfather=s home place.

He left Pitt County to join the army in WW I, to attend Wake Forest College, and to attend Elon College. It was at Elon that he met his future wife, Alice Frances Baldwin. They were married 4 June 1930 as mentioned above.

They were joined a year later by their son David Lloyd. They were both educators and worked for several years in central North Carolina, where Alf served as principal and Alice taught class. In 1936 they moved to Rockingham, North Carolina. Rockingham, Richmond County, was surrounded by several cotton mill villages, and was Alice=s home county. Again, he had a job as principal and she as a teacher, although in separate mill village schools.